



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

DIRECTIONS TO THE COMPETITOR—READ CAREFULLY

This assessment is designed to measure your ability to communicate effectively in writing.

In the assessment, you will be presented with a scenario that describes two choices, either one of which can be supported on the basis of the information given. You must write an essay that argues for one of the two choices, showing why you favor your choice over the other choice.

There is no “right” or “wrong” choice: a reasonable argument can be made for either. Your essay will be evaluated in terms of four skill areas: 1) paragraph organization; 2) presentation of ideas; 3) grammar, syntax, and punctuation; and 4) vocabulary, spelling, and capitalization.

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Specific Directions: You are to write a brief essay on the scenario below. You will have 45 minutes within which to plan and write. The scenario presented below describes two choices, either one of which can be supported on the basis of the information given. In your essay, you must argue for one of the two choices, showing why you favor your choice over the other choice. Your argument should be based on a consideration of both choices and the specified criteria and facts provided. There is no “right” or “wrong” choice: a reasonable argument can be made for either.

In writing your essay, you may make assumptions about the circumstances and values of the family in the scenario, but you may not change the facts given.

Your essay will be evaluated in terms of four skill areas: 1) paragraph organization; 2) presentation of ideas; 3) grammar, syntax, and punctuation; and 4) vocabulary, spelling, and capitalization. **(Your knowledge of the subject matter in the exercise is not being tested.)**

Your essay should consist of one full page, single-spaced. The essay should begin with an introduction, continue with an organized presentation of the main points of your argument, and end with a summary.

You will use Microsoft Word, including the spell check feature, to prepare your essay. Although the judges will rate only the electronic essay, you will be supplied with scratch paper and pencils in order for you to make notes and outline your essay.

Scenario

The Paneo family desires to immigrate into a new country. The Paneo family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Paneo and their two children. They need to make a choice between the Copper Islands and the United Territories. Your essay should answer the question, “Which country should the Paneo family choose to immigrate into and why?”

Criteria for evaluating choice:

- Entire family must be able to live there
- Family must have a viable standard of living

Choice 1: Copper Islands

- Permission from Copper Islands for Mr. Paneo to immigrate immediately available
- Mrs. Paneo and children eligible to immigrate one year after Mr. Paneo immigrates
- Mr. Paneo meets Copper Island immigration requirements
- Jobs reasonably available
- Modest wages for most jobs
- Low level of benefits in welfare/unemployment programs
- Benefits from welfare/unemployment programs last indefinitely

Choice 2: United Territories

- Husband, wife, and children all immigrate together
- 15-month approval process before immigration
- Immigration eligibility not guaranteed
- Very competitive labor market -- jobs may be unavailable
- High average wage level for jobs
- Substantial benefits in welfare/unemployment programs
- Benefits from welfare/unemployment program last short time



Homeland Security